

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application.

The claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and to place the application into better form for examination.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up copy of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

(Rev. 02/21/02)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) The method according to claim 1[ or 2], **characterized** in that the amount of complexing agent used is approx. 0.1-30 kg, preferably approx. 5-20 kg/m<sup>3</sup> of wood.

4. (Amended) A method according to [any of the preceding claims]claim 1, **characterized** in that the complexing agent used is an organic chelator, in particular an aminopolycarboxylic acid or a salt thereof, a hydroxy acid or a salt thereof, or an organophosphate.

6. (Amended) The method according to [any of the preceding claims]claim 1, **characterized** in that sawn timber, plywood, chipboards or various wood composites are treated.

8. (Amended) A lignocellulose-based product treated according to [any of Claims 1-6]Claim 1.